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**ASIAN AMERICAN GROUP SUPPORTS GOVERNOR JON S. CORZINE'S PLAN  
TO ADDRESS ECONOMIC CRISIS**

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**TRENTON, NEW JERSEY.** The Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of New Jersey (APALA/NJ), representing hundreds of attorneys of Asian descent, and promoting the interests of the State's fast growing Asian American community now numbering well over 650,000 residents, applauds Governor Jon S. Corzine for his proactive leadership in dealing with the recent economic downturn. Though New Jersey's difficulties are rooted in the national economic crisis, Governor Corzine's comprehensive plan, announced today before a joint meeting of the Legislature, recognizes the need for local, targeted, and immediate action to assist New Jersey's anxious residents.

APALA/NJ President, Sudha Kantor, stated, "The Governor's initiative in these difficult times is timely and necessary." APALA/NJ, along with a number of other community organizations, worked closely with the Governor's Office to discuss community and business specific difficulties, including the alarming increase in mortgage foreclosures, business and job losses, bureaucratic hurdles, energy costs, and increasing demand for food assistance. Kantor added, "In terms of encouraging business ownership, the proposed job creation incentives and business friendly regulatory changes will be well-received by Asian American business owners who contribute billions of dollars to the State economy each year, and employ thousands of workers."

Governor Corzine's plan acts upon critical issues - protecting homeowners, offering help with oil and gas heat for the coming winter, promoting job creation, providing critical food assistance, attracting and retaining business, and investing in our future. "Within the Asian American community, a large number of elderly, economically disadvantaged, and struggling families are desperately in need of help," noted Kantor.

APALA/NJ urges the Legislature to work in a bipartisan manner to promptly implement meaningful and effective measures, consistent with the Governor's unprecedented plan. "Time is simply not a luxury our struggling families have," Kantor concluded.

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*Founded in 1985, APALA/NJ is the only Pan-Asian bar association serving the interests of all Asian American attorneys practicing in New Jersey. APALA/NJ seeks to (1) promote and support a positive image of Asian Americans, (2) educate members and the community about issues of critical concern to Asian Americans, (3) support the professional advancement of Asian Americans in the legal profession, (4) provide networking opportunities for members, and (5) strengthen relationships between members and New Jersey's Asian American community. Additional information is available at [www.apalanj.com](http://www.apalanj.com).*